



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/917,541	07/27/2001	Katrin Reisinger	GTP/US 3183	9996
24131	7590	01/12/2006	EXAMINER	
LERNER GREENBERG STEMER LLP			GREENE, DANIEL L	
P O BOX 2480			ART UNIT	
HOLLYWOOD, FL 33022-2480			PAPER NUMBER	
			3621	

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

MAILED

JAN 12 2006

GROUP 3600

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 09/917,541
Filing Date: July 27, 2001
Appellant(s): REISINGER, KATRIN

F. Donald Paris

For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed 28 March 2005

(1) *Real Party in Interest*

A statement identifying the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) *Related Appeals and Interferences*

The brief contains a statement that no related and/or interferences are pending.

(3) Status of Claims

The statement of the status of the claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) Summary of Invention

The summary of invention contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Issues

The appellant's statement of the issues in the brief is correct.

(7) Grouping of Claims

Appellant's brief includes a statement that claims 4, 24, and 26 do not stand or fall together and provides reasons as set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(c)(7) and (c)(8).

(8) Claims Appealed

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(10) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). This rejection is set forth in a prior Office Action, mailed on 11/17/2004.

(11) Response to Argument

The Appellant states that the present invention is a "closed" system in contrast to an open system as disclosed by the reference Leon. Review of Claim 1 does not specify that the invention is a "closed" system. However, a reference is to be considered

Art Unit: 3621

not only for what it expressly states, but also for what it would reasonably have suggested to one of ordinary skill in the art. *In re DeLisle*, 160 USPQ 806 (CCPA 1969). Leon discloses the system components as per the prior Office Action except for the removable authorization device. However, Leon does disclose as per Col. 37, lines 48-50, that the Secure Meter Device (SMD) can further include an input interface circuit that couples to an input element. The input element can be a switch, a push button, a key, or the like. The Examiner submits that teaching of the use of a external input element provides the motivation/bridge to incorporate the use of a dongle and/or a cryptographic key stored on a token as taught by the second reference Vu in the prior 103 Office Action.

The Appellant further states that Leon does not show simultaneous operation of two different security systems as recited in the instant claims. The Examiner submits that the use of the previous input element in conjunction with the system/program as taught by Leon via Fig. 5A is in fact two different security systems.

The Appellant argues that the secondary reference, Vu, does not teach what the primary reference, Leon, teaches. The Examiner agrees. Vu teaches about the use of cryptographic key/dongle to show it is old and well known to use an external device in conjunction with another system to enhance the security of a device.

The Appellant's argument that because the prior arts are not in the same international classification deem them non-analogous and therefore, not properly combinable ignores the case law that states, "A reference is to be considered not only

for what it expressly states, but for what it would reasonably have suggested to one of ordinary skill in the art. *In re DeLisle*, 160 USPQ 806 (CCPA 1969).

The Appellant further argues that Leon is initializing a security module, not the mailing machine as recited in the instant claims. The Examiner submits that the mailing machine has a security module/section that must be initialized before it can function. The kind or type of equipment/machine that is initialized does not render an invention original, unique or non-obvious. The method incorporated to initialize a piece of equipment/machine is what is being presented and addressed in the prior Office Action.

As per claim 4, Leon teaches, " ... a postal security device configured to check an authorization of the data input" Leon discloses the validation of input data via Col. 16, lines 30-43. Leon discloses the validation of the data, which provides for the checking that the data is authorized.

As per claims 24 and 26 the Appellant discloses about the data required for the use of an inkjet cartridge. Leon discloses the systems and methods used to incorporate a printer into the system Col. 6, lines 15-67. Since the applicant has not disclosed that providing data input of extra data solves any stated problem in a new or unexpected way or is for any particular purpose which is unobvious to one of ordinary skill and it appears that the claimed feature does not distinguish the invention over similar features in the prior art since, the teachings of Leon will perform the invention as claimed by the applicant with any means, method, or product to sending and providing data that is stored in a non-volatile memory.

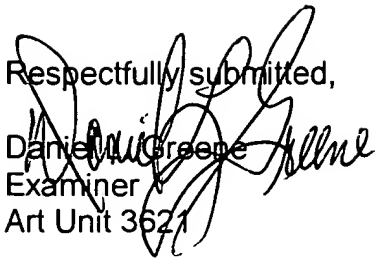
In reference to the Appellant's statement that, "... there is no "clear and particular " teaching or suggestion in Leon to incorporate the features of Vu..." the Examiner submits that Leon's discloses the use of an input element that includes a switch, a key, or the like. Col. 37, liners 34-48. Vu teaches about a type of key that could be used.

In response to applicant's argument that the examiner's conclusion of obviousness is based upon improper hindsight reasoning, it must be recognized that any judgment on obviousness is in a sense necessarily a reconstruction based upon hindsight reasoning. But so long as it takes into account only knowledge which was within the level of ordinary skill at the time the claimed invention was made, and does not include knowledge gleaned only from the applicant's disclosure, such a reconstruction is proper. See *In re McLaughlin*, 443 F.2d 1392, 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971). Leon discloses and provides the ways and means disclosed by the Appellant and as previously stated, provides the motivation to use secondary methods to increase the security of the overall system.



For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Application/Control Number: 09/917,541
Art Unit: 3621

Page 6

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel M. Greene
Examiner
Art Unit 3621

DLG
December 8, 2005

Conferees
James P. Trammel 
Sam Sough 

LERNER AND GREENBERG, PA
P O BOX 2480
HOLLYWOOD, FL 33022-2480